



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 1 August 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Associated Press reports that an 18-year-old has been accused of igniting a pipe bomb under a railroad overpass in Michigan and has been charged with five crimes, including gun violations and a threat of terrorism. The explosive did not cause damage on Sunday. (See item [17](#))
- According to All Headline News, when the earthquake hit near Los Angeles Tuesday, many residents turned to Twitter before the telephone. Wireless phone providers suggest text messages can often avoid delays caused by a crush of traffic from thousands of cell phone users attempting to make calls during emergencies. (See item [40](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *July 29, Platts* – (National) **U.S. House proposal to seek regional review of gas infrastructure.** Two Democrats will introduce a bill to the U.S. House of Representatives Wednesday to develop a national commission to “examine the adequacy of current federal policies governing the siting of natural gas infrastructure.” A representative of New York and a representative of Maryland, co-sponsors of the Natural Gas Strategy Act, want the commission to study how effectively current regulatory structures meet the U.S.’ overall energy needs. Currently, new infrastructure projects are reviewed and approved or denied as they are submitted, rather than as a

result of a comprehensive national strategy, the congressmen said. The Maryland congressman said that while evaluating risks and benefits associated with individual project sites is essential, “we must also take a comprehensive look at our nation’s natural gas supply needs and the infrastructure required to meet those needs.” The proposed commission will help assess “how to place national gas infrastructure where it best meets supply needs and where it will have the least possible impact on the environment while also allowing us to achieve maximum security with the limited resources available,” he added. Both congressmen have called for regional infrastructure assessments in the past, occasionally in the context of fighting proposed liquefied natural gas import projects in or near their districts.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6929346.xml?sub=Natural%20Gas&p=Natural%20Gas/News&?undefined&undefined>

2. *July 29, Platts* – (National) **U.S. DOE aids research to cut water use in coal power plants.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) plans to award nearly \$8.8 million to ten projects designed to use water more efficiently to cool large coal-fired power plants, the agency said Tuesday. Private industry and universities will conduct the research over the next two to three years. In total, the recipients will put in \$2.8 million, making all of the projects worth a combined \$11.5 million. DOE said the sponsors envision commercial ventures by 2020. The largest project, worth about \$1.9 million, would help GE Global Research use “non-traditional waters” in evaporative cooling towers. The second largest project, worth just over \$1.4 million, involves the Gas Technology Institute, which would develop a way to derive water and excess energy from power plant smokestacks. DOE cited several reasons for making the investment in the projects, including the need to replace older, less efficient plants with new facilities that use “closed-loop” cooling systems. The agency noted that power plants are the second largest user of fresh water in the U.S., behind agriculture. The demand for water will rise as the population grows, energy demand rises, and stricter water-use requirements take effect, DOE said.

Source:

<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6929435.xml?sub=Coal&p=Coal/News&?undefined&undefined>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *July 30, KFOX 14 El Paso* – (New Mexico) **Mesquite chemical plant puts residents at risk.** The New Mexico Environment Department fined Helena Chemical Company’s fertilizer plant in Mesquite \$279,000. The state’s Environment Secretary issued a compliance order, alleging 11 violations of the company’s air quality permit. Regulators said the violations include: allowing emissions to escape from the plant, neglecting to test and monitor to ensure air quality standards are met and failing to maintain records.

Source: <http://www.kfoxtv.com/news/17044185/detail.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *July 31, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **DOE reaches deal on fines after missing 2 deadlines for waste shipment.** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will pay a \$25,000 fine and pay for a natural resource expert for Hanford after missing two deadlines for preparing radioactive waste to be shipped to New Mexico for disposal. The resolution was reached in an agreement between DOE and the Washington State Department of Ecology, which regulates Hanford. DOE and its contractor Fluor Hanford have prepared 3,766 cubic yards of transuranic waste for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. However, under the legally binding Tri-Party Agreement, DOE was required to have about 3,600 cubic yards ready by the end of 2006, a total of 5,040 cubic yards by the end of 2007, and a total of 6,480 cubic yards by the end of 2008. Under the deal reached by the state and DOE, it was agreed that DOE must certify, or have ready to ship, 720 cubic yards of transuranic this fiscal year, which ends September 30. DOE still must formally apply for the change in deadlines under the Tri-Party Agreement, but is on track to meet the revised goal, said a DOE spokesman. Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/901/story/258609.html>
5. *July 30, Platts* – (National) **Search finds two potential sites for spent nuclear fuel storage.** Two U.S. communities are exploring the possibility of becoming the site of a commercial interim storage facility for utility spent nuclear fuel, according to the official leading the industry's site search. Officials from each of the small, rural communities wanted to continue looking at a commercial storage facility after touring dry storage installations at two nuclear plants in June, the Nuclear Energy Institute's senior director of legislative programs said Wednesday. He added that community officials will also meet with top-level nuclear fuel services executives in August to explore how a business plan might come together. He would not name the communities but indicated they are in rural areas of states that already have nuclear power plants or nuclear businesses. Ideally, the nuclear industry would like to see two interim storage sites – one in the east and one in the west – come out of this volunteer process, he said. The fuel would be stored at the interim facilities until it could be moved to a repository now planned for Yucca Mountain, Nevada, for disposal. Each of the storage sites would be about 1,000 acres, he said. Discussions have not yet gone to the state level, he said. Under legislation introduced June 27, communities that notify the U.S. Department of Energy they are willing to have a privately owned and operated storage facility would receive \$1 million a year for up to three years. If a storage facility is licensed, the community would receive up to \$25 million each year the facility operates and \$20 million when it is closed. Source: <http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6930013.xml?sub=Nuclear&p=Nuclear/News&?undefined&undefined>
6. *July 30, Reuters* – (California) **NRC to inspect San Onofre nuclear safety system.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is conducting a special inspection of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) in California that was planned before an earthquake shook southern California on Tuesday, NRC and company officials said.

The Southern California Edison (So Cal Ed)-operated plant continued operations Tuesday and Wednesday without interruption and reported no damage at the closest nuclear plant to the epicenter of a moderate earthquake centered east of Los Angeles. So Cal Ed officials emphasized on Wednesday that while the inspection was announced by the NRC on Wednesday, its timing the day after the earthquake is coincidental. A So Cal Ed spokesperson said SONGS workers several months ago “discovered bolts connecting a battery to other electrical components were not as tight as they should have been” and reported the issue to the NRC. NRC inspectors have noticed similar problems at SONGS since 2005 have affected the operation of an emergency backup generator and batteries used to supply power during accidents, the NRC said. “We are concerned about the number of failures and want to take a look at the way the licensee has responded to the issue,” said the Region IV administrator. A team of three NRC specialists will begin the inspection August 4. The team will write a report about a month after the inspection. Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN3028422520080730>

7. *July 30, KRNv 4 Reno* – (Nevada) **Senator: Yucca Mountain dump site has history of seismic activity.** A U.S. senator from Nevada spoke Wednesday about the potential for grave consequences at Yucca Mountain if an earthquake ever struck in the area of the proposed nuclear dump site. In light of Tuesday’s California earthquake felt in southern Nevada, the senator highlighted the fact that the Yucca Mountain site has a history of major seismic activity, increasing the already serious risk of a deadly radioactive release from containers not proven to be safe. He also noted that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) still has no emergency response plan in place for Yucca Mountain, which could prove tragic if an earthquake occurred. He said this is another reason why the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission should not docket for review the DOE’s proposal. Source: http://www.krnv.com/Global/story.asp?S=8761510&nav=menu113_2

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *July 31, CNN* – (National; International) **Ecuador to shut down U.S. anti-drug operation.** The Ecuadorian government has told the Bush administration it will not renew a 10-year agreement letting U.S. troops conduct anti-drug operations from Manta Air Base, an Ecuadorian Air Force installation, military officials said. The United States has used Manta Air Base since 1999 to run aerial surveillance of the eastern Pacific Ocean, looking for drug runners on the high seas as well as illicit flights. Ecuador notified the U.S. Embassy on Tuesday that it will not renew the agreement after it expires in November 2009, the U.S. military officials said. “The Ecuadorian people do not want foreign troops on our soil, and the government has to follow the mandate of its people,” Ecuador’s ambassador to the United States said Wednesday. “The operations there are critical to our overall counternarcotics strategy, but Ecuador has promised continued close cooperation to confront the threat of drug smuggling,” said a spokeswoman for the department. Manta is the only U.S. base in South America. The U.S. military operates two other counternarcotics bases in the region: a naval operation in El Salvador and an air operation in Curacao in the Caribbean. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/americas/07/30/us.equador.base/index.html>

Banking and Finance Sector

9. *July 31, Midland Reporter-Telegram* – (Texas) **Phone scam targeting bank accounts targets West Texas.** First National Bank's president of the Midland market said that a scam using his bank's name is circulating among customers in West Texas. A voice mail message is being left on customer's machines telling them that their debit card with First National Bank has been deactivated. Customers are then instructed to call a phony toll-free number to re-activate their cards and to enter both their account and pin numbers when prompted. According to the official, the best thing for customers who receive the voice mail is for them to ignore the message and contact their bank as soon as possible.
Source: http://www.mywesttexas.com/articles/2008/07/31/news/top_stories/bank_scam.txt
10. *July 30, Associated Press* – (Florida) **Bank, contractor employees uncover fraud scheme.** Federal authorities have charged a Lebanese native with fraud after he allegedly deceived Florida officials into diverting millions of dollars to an account he set up, instead of a road building company that was supposed to get the money. Employees of a bank and the contractor are being credited with uncovering the \$5.7 million scheme, leading to the suspect's arrest as he was attempting to fly to Beirut. Some of the money had been wired to Beirut before the FBI arrested the man at Miami International Airport last week as he was waiting to board a plane bound for Beirut. Most of the cash has been recovered, said a spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Financial Services. She said the FBI is trying to determine if any state employees were involved.
Source: http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5i0QzGevVzehEt_yotlthlQlAIrMwD928DB4G0
11. *July 30, KATV 7 Little Rock* – (Arkansas) **Police warn of text messaging scam.** Since Tuesday, at least a dozen Pine Bluff area bank customers have been targeted by a text messaging scam. The text says "We regret to inform you that we had to lock you bank account access." The sender tells the customer to call a number to restore his or her bank account. Investigators say the text messages are coming from Europe, but the phone number customers are told to call is in Iowa. A Pine Bluff Police official said: "It's a very sophisticated and targeted-type plan to just hit people in this area. So I'm sure if they just hit people from Pine Bluff, from Iowa and Europe, then they can hit any other place in United States or here in Arkansas."
Source: <http://www.katv.com/news/stories/0708/540087.html>
12. *July 30, KEZI 9 Eugene* – (Oregon) **Phone scam targets local Credit Union customers.** Investigators say scammers are calling members of the Oregon Community Credit Union on their home and cell phones, telling them that there is an issue with their account. The scammers are using an automated service that asks customers to give personal information over the phone.
Source: <http://kezi.com/news/local/30597>

13. *July 30, Reuters* – (National) **Bush signs U.S. housing rescue plan into law.** As home foreclosures rise and property values slump, the president on Wednesday signed into law a rescue package that includes emergency backstops for mortgage financing companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The new law boosts oversight of the companies, which own or guarantee almost half the country's \$12 trillion in home mortgage debt. It also expands a temporary line of U.S. Treasury credit and gives the government the option to buy shares in them if they ran into trouble. The new law also sets up a \$300-billion fund under the Federal Housing Administration to help distressed homeowners get more affordable, government-backed mortgages and get out from under exotic mortgages they cannot afford. The bill also offers tax breaks to spur home-buying; sets up the first national licensing system for mortgage brokers and loan officers; and raises the limit on the size of mortgages that federal agencies can guarantee.
- Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUKN3042871120080730>

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Transportation Sector

14. *July 31, News Tribune* – (Washington) **Police, others prepare for new anti-war protests.** The 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division Strykers are back at the Port of Tacoma, Washington, and local authorities are bracing for a repeat of the protests that accompanied their departure 17 months ago. Tacoma police and 10 other local public safety agencies said they spent a combined \$1 million in staffing and overtime costs at the 12-day load-out in March 2007. They arrested at least 37 people from local "port militarization resistance" groups that object to using public ports for military shipments to and from the war in Iraq. The brigade's Strykers, trucks and Humvees – more than 900 vehicles in all, plus hundreds of cargo containers – arrived at the Port of Tacoma late Tuesday aboard the USNS Brittin. Olympia- and Tacoma-based anti-war activists say they are preparing to demonstrate at the return of the vehicles, just as they did at the brigade's departure. The Olympia Port Militarization Resistance objects to public ports in Washington being used to ship military cargo on the grounds that it believes the war to be immoral and illegal. The group has organized protests at all of the recent military shipments into and out of the ports of Tacoma, Olympia and Grays Harbor.
- Source: <http://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/story/429345.html>
15. *July 31, CNN* – (New York) **Airline baggage woes continue.** American Airlines canceled five flights that were to leave John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on Thursday as a result of a glitch that delayed at least 1,000 pieces of luggage, an airline spokeswoman said. The software glitch caused a conveyor belt problem in the airline's bag room Wednesday, airline officials said. That prevented the airline from getting passenger's luggage onto their flights. "The system developer is currently working on the software," the airline said in a statement. "The system hardware — the conveyor — is operational. The software is not allowing it to sort, though." Airline workers are manually sorting piles of bags, said an airline spokesman.
- Source: <http://cnnwire.blogs.cnn.com/2008/07/31/airline%E2%80%99s-baggage-woes-continue/>

16. *July 31, Associated Press* – (Pennsylvania) **Threat made aboard plane at Pittsburgh airport.** A man is being questioned after allegedly making a verbal threat aboard a plane departing Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. An airport spokeswoman says the unidentified man told a flight attendant about a bomb supposedly on his connecting flight in Newark. The attendant alerted the pilot, who notified the control tower that there was a bomb threat aboard the Continental Connection Dash 8 turboprop operated by Colgan Air. The plane he was on was searched and cleared for take off after a several-hour delay.
Source: <http://www.timesleader.com/news/ap?articleID=629809>
17. *July 30, Associated Press* – (Michigan) **Police: Teen ignited pipe bomb at train overpass.** An 18-year-old from Canton Township, Michigan, is accused of igniting a pipe bomb under a railroad overpass. Police in the Detroit-area township say the explosive did not cause damage on Sunday. The suspect has been charged with five crimes, including gun violations and a threat of terrorism. Witnesses tell police he pointed a 12-gauge shotgun at them and talked about trying to derail a train.
Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-mi-railroad-pipebomb,0,527959.story>
18. *July 30, USA Today* – (National) **Airlines may face fines over mistaken terrorist IDs.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is threatening to fine airlines up to \$25,000 when they erroneously tell passengers they are on a terrorist watch list. TSA officials, frustrated that carriers have not taken steps to eliminate the hassle that occurs when a passenger has a name similar to someone on a terrorist watch list, plan to meet with airlines this week to “make sure they aren’t alarming people and telling them they’re on a watch list when they aren’t,” said an agency spokeswoman. The TSA has urged airlines to keep records of passengers who have been cleared after being mistaken for terrorists so the mistakes will not happen again. Airlines say they have spent millions of dollars to improve their passenger-identification systems, said an official of the Air Transport Association, the airline trade group. The TSA’s pressure comes shortly after the American Civil Liberties Union said that 1 million people are on terrorist watch lists, and a CNN reporter reported he was placed on the watch list after airing a story critical of the TSA.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2008-07-30-tsa_N.htm
19. *July 30, Xinhua* – (International) **Beijing tightens subway security to screen all bags.** Beijing commuters will face even tighter security checks from Thursday when subway passengers will have to submit all bags for screening. Even small handbags must go through x-ray machines or portable scanners, the subway operators announced Wednesday. Those who refused checks could be barred from the subway and further refusal to cooperate could incur penalties, the Beijing Mass Transit Railway Operation Co. Ltd said in a statement on its website. Over the past month, only large bags were required for checks. More than 3,400 forbidden items had been detected and some 2,000 people had been barred since the measures were imposed. Of all the confiscated materials, 90 percent were flammable such as paint. Metro operators suggested people give up unnecessary bags to save queuing time.
Source: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2008-07/30/content_8866710.htm

Postal and Shipping Sector

20. *July 31, Journal and Courier* – (Indiana) **Biohazard drill a ‘success.’** Emergency responders, firefighters, police officers, post office personnel, and health care and American Red Cross workers spent much of the afternoon simulating their response to a biohazard emergency and the complications that could ensue at the main post office in Lafayette, Indiana. The deputy director of Tippecanoe County Emergency Management Agency said there are a lot of steps involved in a response of this scale and going through the whole drill helps work out the kinks. When the team goes back to critique the job later, everyone will note different areas where improvements can be made. The post office uses a biohazard detection system to continuously test loose particles in the mail. An alarm would go off in the case of biohazard detection, and calls would go out to local 911 dispatchers. A U.S. Postal inspector said the alarm systems are reliable and “if they do go off, it’s going to be the real thing.”

Source:

<http://www.jconline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080731/NEWS/807310331>

21. *July 30, Malvern Daily Record* – (Arkansas) **Robot detonates can at post office.** A suspicious package that appeared to be a solvent can wrapped in tape that was left outside the Malvern, Arkansas, post office caused the building to be evacuated and emergency personnel to spring into action. The Malvern Fire Department and the Malvern Police Department both responded to the post office around 3 p.m. after post office employees reported a suspicious package left outside the building. The Little Rock Fire Department (LRFD) Bomb Squad was contacted to inspect the package. After evaluating the package, the LRFD Bomb Squad determined the package should be detonated. The robot detonated the package, and the container was found to contain car polish. Due to their quick action, the Malvern Police Department and Malvern Fire Department were able to assess and keep control of what could have been a dangerous situation.

Source: <http://www.malvern-online.com/content/view/108338/1/>

22. *July 30, WPVI 6 Philadelphia* – (New Jersey) **Princeton package not biological or chemical.** A package addressed for the mayor of Princeton, New Jersey, led to a hazmat situation. It happened Wednesday morning at Borough Hall, where the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Homeland Security, and health officials responded after three workers became ill after opening a package. Tests show the package did not contain anything chemical or biological, but people there did have a reaction to the package. Authorities say they have to investigate further to identify the irritant.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=6296511>

Agriculture and Food Sector

23. *July 31, USA Today* – (National) **Money for crop research just a drop in the bucket.**

A deadly wheat fungus known as stem rust is shriveling crops from Africa to the Middle East, threatening the breadbasket of Pakistan and India, and could eventually reach the United States. The potential threat to food supplies and the economy is enormous, yet Congress and the White House during the past several years did not react to urgent pleas from U.S. scientists for millions of dollars to develop wheat varieties resistant to stem rust. Instead, the main federal lab working on the disease fought budget cuts. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation this spring promised \$27 million to Cornell University to run an international research effort to thwart stem rust. In Congress, pending spending bills would increase research. However, about 90 percent of all commercial wheat varieties are susceptible to the new strain of the disease.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2008-07-30-food-research-gates_N.htm

24. *July 31, New York Times* – (National) **Amid salmonella case, food industry seems set to back greater regulation.** Food industry leaders set to appear Thursday before a House committee say they will testify about what they view as mistakes in the federal response to the continuing salmonella outbreak as well as fundamental failures in the nation's food safety system. At the same time, however, several food safety experts say, industry leaders are also questioning whether the weak produce-tracking rules that many of them once championed are more a curse than a blessing. As they tally the financial losses from the largest food-borne outbreak of illness in the last decade, produce businesses now show signs of embracing broader regulations for traceability. The United Fresh Produce Association estimates that the tomato industry lost more than \$100 million while the warning was in effect. Industry leaders have said they hope to get compensation from Congress to make up for losses, and those who are to appear Thursday said they also planned to demand a stricter burden of proof before the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) blames a particular food product for any future outbreak. "This outbreak has had a really serious effect on the industry," said a former FDA official and now a professor at George Washington University. "The industry is probably receptive to public policy changes that they wouldn't have considered before." Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/31/health/policy/31outbreak.html?_r=2&ref=business&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

25. *July 31, Digital Journal* – (National) **Cilantro recalled possible Salmonella contamination.** NewStar Fresh Foods has issued a voluntary recall for Fresh Cilantro because it has the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. The Salmonella identified is not the Saintpaul strain currently implicated in the Salmonella Saintpaul outbreak. The product is packaged in one pound clear plastic bags under the brand names NewStar, Ready Set Serve, and Cross Valley Farms. The company has already contacted all foodservice customers to immediately recall fresh Cilantro with Product Lot ID # 11B056404 and either an expired best-if-used by dates of July 26th and 27th or a Julian code of 192 or 193. The Cilantro was distributed to foodservice customers located in Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, Washington, New York, Oregon, Ohio, Louisiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, North Carolina, Kentucky, New Mexico, Alabama, California,

Texas, Georgia, Utah, Mississippi, Arizona, and Florida. The recall was the result of a routine sampling program by the Michigan Department of Agriculture which revealed that the finished product contained the bacteria. The company is working closely with regulatory authorities to ensure the small number of cartons, approximately 1,100, are recovered and destroyed.

Source: <http://www.digitaljournal.com/article/258046>

26. *July 30, Bozeman Daily Chronicle* – (Montana) **Anthrax kills 25 bison on Turner’s Flying D.** An outbreak of the infectious disease anthrax has killed 25 domestic bison on Flying D Ranch near the mouth of the Gallatin Canyon, Montana Department of Livestock officials said Wednesday. “Laboratory tests confirmed anthrax late this morning,” a state veterinarian said. “The outbreak has been contained to a single, fully enclosed pasture, and we are aggressively addressing the situation with full cooperation of the landowner.” The affected area has been quarantined. Spores of the bacteria can lie dormant in the soil for decades then become active under certain climatic or ecologic changes such as heavy rains or flooding preceded by drought. Animals are exposed to the disease by grazing, drinking water, or eating forage contaminated with the spores. Untreated animals may die within a day or two of exposure, and one or more animals are typically found dead without any recognition of early signs of the disease, which include labored breathing, staggering, unconsciousness, and convulsions, according to the Montana Department of Livestock. Anthrax can spread from animals to humans, usually as a result of direct contact with infected animals or animal products such as wool, hides, and horns.

Source: <http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/articles/2008/07/31/news/20anthrax.txt>

27. *July 30, CNN* – (National) **Salmonella found in irrigation water at Mexican farm, FDA says.** A salmonella outbreak in the United States and Canada has been linked to irrigation water and serrano peppers at a Mexican farm, the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said Wednesday. The salmonella outbreak has been linked to raw Mexican jalapenos and serranos. The FDA’s food safety chief, said the farm is in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, and called the discovery “a key breakthrough.” The people made sick by a strain called “Salmonella Saintpaul” were found in 43 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. At least 242 have been hospitalized, although federal health officials say only the elderly, infants, and people with weakened immune system need to avoid raw peppers from Mexico. Earlier, the FDA announced it had discovered salmonella on jalapenos imported from Mexico at the Agricola Zarigosa produce distribution center in McAllen, Texas. The FDA said traceback studies of food eaten by victims who became sick indicate the contaminated jalapeno pepper originated in Mexico.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/HEALTH/conditions/07/30/fda.salmonella/index.html>

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Water Sector

Nothing to report

Public Health and Healthcare Sector

28. *July 31, ScienceDaily* – (National) **Vaccine to protect against black plague bioterror attack being developed.** A University of Central Florida (UCF) researcher may have found a defense against the Black Plague, a disease that wiped out a third of Europe's population in the Middle Ages and which government agencies perceive as a terrorist threat today. The professor and his team have developed a vaccine that early research shows is highly effective against the plague. Findings of his National Institutes of Health and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-funded research appear in the August edition of *Infection and Immunity*. The vaccine, which is taken orally or by injection, was given to rats at UCF and the efficacy was evaluated by measuring immunity (antibody) developed in their blood. All untreated rats died within three days while all orally immunized animals survived this challenge with no traces of the plague in their bodies. The rats were exposed to a heavy dose of *Yersinia Pestis* bacteria, which causes the plague, at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases in Maryland. It is one of a few labs in the world authorized to store and work with the highly dangerous agent. "We are very excited because it appears the oral vaccine is even more effective than traditional injectable vaccine," the professor said. "This could really make a difference." In the event of a bioterror attack, the oral form makes the vaccine practical, as the distribution of pills would be much quicker and likely more effective because no special skills or sterile needles are needed to administer them.
Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080730140829.htm>
29. *July 31, Washington Examiner* – (District of Columbia) **IG says delays in bioterrorism lab threatened District's capabilities.** Nearly a decade of delays getting D.C.'s bioterrorism laboratory up and running threatened the city's capability to respond to a biological attack, the District's inspector general (IG) concluded in a recent audit. The Department of Health took ownership of the 5,285-square-foot Biosafety Level 3 lab, built on the grounds of the shuttered D.C. Village homeless shelter, on May 29 nine years after initiating the project. A lack of planning and coordination caused massive delays that "negatively affected" the District's response capabilities, the IG wrote in the review, released last week. "The need for a fully operational BSL3 lab is critical to ensure the health and safety of the citizens of the District of Columbia," auditors wrote. The new lab will reduce the time it takes to identify most emerging disease agents and potential biological threats from three days to eight hours, according to the health department. Health technicians will be able to perform up to 30,000 tests a year.
Source: http://www.examiner.com/a-1514121~IG_says_delays_in_bioterrorism_lab_threatened_District_s_capabilities.html
30. *July 30, McClatchy News Service* – (North Carolina) **Opponents of bio-hazard lab in Triangle heckle feds.** Opponents of a proposed \$450 million research lab took control of two public hearings Tuesday, making it clear to state and federal officials that efforts to build the project in Granville County would trigger a lengthy battle. The 520,000-square-foot lab would handle a wide range of pathogens that could be used as biological threats. About 10 percent of the lab would be set aside for viruses with no known cures.

Known formally as the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, the laboratory would be used to better understand biological threats. The Department of Homeland Security sponsored the hearings Tuesday afternoon and evening. The hearings were the last in Butner before a decision, which is expected this year. Raleigh officials signaled Tuesday that they may seek to block the facility. Increasing opposition could hurt this region's chances of landing the lab.

Source:

http://www.thetimesnews.com/news/lab_16134_article.html/opponents_security.html

31. *July 29, News-Medical.Net* – (National) **Senate Republicans to begin campaign against Medicare fraud.** A group of senators estimate that fraud accounts for 20 percent, or about \$60 billion, of the annual Medicare budget, have begun “piecing together a crusade” against Medicare fraud in an effort to make the issue an important part of the health care reform debate in the next Congress, CongressDaily reports.

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=40326>

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Government Facilities Sector

32. *July 31, WISC 3 Madison* – (Wisconsin) **Police arrest suspect in bomb scares.** A 67-year-old man is in custody in Madison, Wisconsin, in connection with two bomb scares near the Capitol building. Madison police identified the suspect and said he was arrested on charges of felony bomb scare and disorderly conduct while armed. “We believe that the person we have in custody is responsible for leaving whatever was left or taped to the tree or hanging in the tree in front of the Walgreens, and for coming to the Capitol Square this afternoon, with some objects which are being looked at,” said the police spokesman. The backpack left Tuesday was hanging in a tree about a block from where the man was apprehended. It was on fire and had to be detonated by the bomb squad Tuesday.

Source: <http://www.channel3000.com/news/17039054/detail.html>

33. *July 30, Associated Press* – (International) **Top U.K. court allows extradition of hacker to U.S.** A British citizen – accused of breaking into military and NASA computers in what he claims was a search for UFOs, allegedly causing nearly \$1 million in damage – has lost his appeal against extradition to the U.S. The suspect, an unemployed computer administrator, allegedly broke into 97 computers belonging to the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Department of Defense from a bedroom in a north London home. His attacks between 2001 and 2002 allegedly shut down the Army district responsible for protecting Washington, and cleared logs from computers at the Naval Weapons Station Earle in New Jersey that tracks the location and battle-readiness of Navy ships. That last attack, coming immediately after the September 11 attacks, knocked out the station's entire network of 300 computers. NASA and privately owned computers also were damaged, prosecutors said, putting the total cost of his online activities at \$900,000.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5h6ognufcJyMQaA9n6nsNOyMGwM1QD928HROOB>

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Emergency Services Sector

34. *July 31, New York Times* – (New York) **Police and Fire radios are talking to each other.** New York City emergency medical workers can now contact the police directly via radio. Fire officials use information beamed down from police helicopters. Law enforcement officers and emergency service agencies hold joint drills at high-rise buildings, jails, and the city's tunnels. Seven years after the September 11 attacks, New York City has improved the ability of its Police and Fire Departments to operate together. On Wednesday, these and other advances were enumerated before the Federal Communications Commission at a public hearing in Brooklyn on improving public safety through better communications among government and emergency agencies. A large-scale exercise to test the system is planned for mid-November at the PATH station at the World Trade Center site. The exercise will include Port Authority, the police and other emergency departments in a drill simulating hazardous materials work, rescue, and communications, a fire official said. It will take place in the tube connecting the site with Exchange Plaza, the first time such a drill will have been held there, an official said.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/31/nyregion/31comm.html?ref=nyregion>

35. *July 31, readMedia* – (New York) **Air National Guard wing conducts tornado response exercise.** The New York Air National Guard's 109th Airlift Wing and Stratton Air National Guard Base conducted a tornado response drill on July 31. The event was open to the media.

Source: <http://readme.readmedia.com/news/show/Air-National-Guard-Wing-Conducts-Tornado-Response-Exercise/265495>

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Information Technology

36. *July 31, IDG News Service* – (National) **IOC admits it accepted China Internet censorship.** The International Olympic Committee (IOC) admitted Wednesday that it made a deal with Chinese officials to accept censorship of the Internet during the Beijing Olympic Games, which begin August 8. "IOC officials negotiated with the Chinese [so] that some sensitive sites would be blocked on the basis they were not considered Games-related," said the chairman of the IOC's press commission, according to press reports. "I regret that it now appears BOCOG (the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad) has announced that there will be limitations on Web site access during Games time," he added. BOCOG's top spokesperson said today that Web sites that are "banned" will remain so.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9111159&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

37. *July 30, National Terror Alert* – (National) **Storm Worm virus - warning from the FBI.** The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and its partner, the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3), have received reports of recent spam e-mails spreading the Storm Worm malicious software, known as malware. These e-mails, which contain the phrase “F.B.I. vs. facebook,” direct e-mail recipients to click on a link to view an article about the FBI and Facebook, a popular social networking website. The Storm Worm virus has also been spread in the past in e-mails advertising a holiday e-card link. Clicking on the link downloads malware onto the Internet connected device, causing it to become infected with the virus and part of the Storm Worm botnet.

Source: <http://www.nationalterroralert.com/updates/2008/07/30/storm-worm-virus-warning-from-the-fbi/>

38. *July 30, New York Times* – (National) **With security at risk, a push to patch the Web.** While Internet service providers are racing to fix a problem that makes it possible for criminals to divert users to fake Web sites where personal and financial information can be stolen, the researcher who discovered the bug worries that they have not moved quickly enough. By his estimate, roughly 41 percent of the Internet is still vulnerable. Now he has been ramping up the pressure on companies and organizations to make the necessary software changes before criminal hackers take advantage of the flaw. Major Internet service providers in the United States this week indicated that in most cases, the software patch, which makes the flaw much more difficult to exploit, was already in place or soon would be. Comcast and Verizon, two of the largest providers, said they had fixed the problem for their customers. AT&T said it was in the process of doing so. But the problem is a global one, and the length of time required to fix it could leave many Web users vulnerable for weeks or months. And there are millions of places around the world where people might find themselves vulnerable to potential attacks, ranging from their workplaces to an airport lounge or an Internet cafe.

Source:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/07/30/technology/30flaw.html?em&ex=1217563200&en=bbbb677839594a88&ei=5087%0A>

39. *July 30, Computerworld* – (National) **Hackers start DNS attacks, researcher says.** Hackers are now actively exploiting a critical flaw in the Domain Name System (DNS), but they are not using any of the already known exploits, said a researcher who crafted the first attack code to go public. “We’re seeing an entirely new technique,” said the creator of the Metasploit penetration-testing framework, who with a hacker identified as “Irruid” published exploits last week for the vulnerability in the Internet’s routing system. Late yesterday, he reported that he had found a compromised DNS server operated by AT&T Inc. when employees at his company, BreakingPoint Systems Inc., realized that they were being shunted to a bogus version of Google.com. He said the exploit that successfully attacked the AT&T server was not the same as the Metasploit attack code that he and Irruid wrote, nor were any of the other public exploits. The

compromised AT&T server was taken offline yesterday. The attack seemed designed to generate ad revenue by steering users to the fake Google page, he said.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9111098&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

40. *July 30, All Headline News* – (California) **Twitter provided early quake reports.**

When the 5.4 earthquake hit near Los Angeles Tuesday, many residents turned to Twitter before the telephone. Twitter is an online communication service that allows Internet users to send brief messages to a network of friends. Just minutes after the ground shook in Southern California users of the Internet service were alerting fellow users of the event. Earlier this year, Twitter was used to alert people of earthquakes that hit China. On a company blog, Twitter said its users were able to send news of the earthquake even before traditional news media, such as the Associated Press, had filed stories. In one instance Tuesday, a woman finishing a medical exam used her cell phone to tap out a message on Twitter about her experiences during the LA quake, CNET reported. Wireless phone providers suggest text messages can often avoid delays caused by a crush of traffic from thousands of cell phone users attempting to make calls during emergencies.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7011777432>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

41. *July 30, North County Times* – (California) **Bomb threat evacuates theater.** Police traced a fake bomb threat that evacuated a movie theater to a 17-year-old's cell phone, an Oceanside, California, police sergeant said Wednesday. On Tuesday, a bomb threat was called into the Regal Cinema, a sergeant said. The theater was evacuated and the area around it was cordoned off while investigators surveyed the scene, he said. Police determined the threat was a hoax and, with the help of department computer specialists and the phone company Verizon, traced the call to a cell phone, he said. The phone belonged to an Oceanside teenager who was cited for making the false claim, he said.

Source:

<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2008/07/30/news/coastal/oceanside/z545a024a74d164468825749600813876.txt>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

42. *July 31, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review* – (Pennsylvania) **Emsworth Locks & Dam to get \$34 million upgrade.** Work is expected to start in the next few weeks on repairs and upgrades to the main channel section of the Emsworth Locks and Dam on the Ohio River, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Wednesday. The Corps has awarded a contract to replace seven vertical-lift gates and install hydraulic systems in the main channel structure between Emsworth, Pennsylvania, and the north side of Neville Island, said the project's manager. The renovations are scheduled to be completed in 2011. Repairing the Emsworth system is one necessary step in upgrading the deteriorating, decades-old locks and dam system that spans 24.1 miles on the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio rivers. A failure of any dam like the two in Emsworth – both of which the U.S. Corps of Engineers identified as “critically near failure” – could prevent businesses from delivering products to their customers by water, company officials said. A Corps report released July 3 listed the “catastrophic consequences” that would result due to the failure of either one of the Emsworth dams. It concluded that 11,700 jobs would be at risk and \$2 million of wages would be lost each day.

Source: http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/cityregion/s_580274.html

43. *July 30, WCMH 4 Columbus* – (Ohio) **Are emergency action plans in place for dams?** Dam owners are required by law to prepare for dam failure in the form of an emergency action plan. But some dams near Columbus, Ohio, still do not have an emergency plan in place. High-hazard dams located in Westerville, Blendon Township, and the Village of Ashley do not have emergency action plans. If the dam failed quickly or faced an act of terrorism, the emergency action plan would become essential. But putting together a plan is expensive because of the cost of hiring consultants.

Source: <http://www.nbc4i.com/midwest/cmh/news.apx.-content-articles-CMH-2008-07-30-0037.html>

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